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6 Nov 51

From: Spain, Madrid

Report No: WSM-491

Local File No:

No. of Pages: 2

No. of Enclosures: 0

Report Made By:

Approved By:

Distribution:

By copy to: Wash 1

Orally to: Embassy  
Air Attaché

Source Cryptonym: Name assigned (see below) References: WSM-1351

Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

The source of this report is the same as that of reference.

TRACES: POPAN - [ ] 0379 (paragraph 1 d)  
Others - WSM-1351

This report is of interest in view of the fact that Colonel Turner, the Embassy Air Attaché, had a recent interview with SIMA, in which the latter held forth at some length on the Romanian guerrillas allegedly holding out in the Romanian mountains. He claimed that these guerrillas were in desperate need of arms, ammunition, medicine, and money, and in general repeated the Iron Guard line. It is perfectly possible that he arranged the meeting merely to be able to add some substance to his hints that there is American interest in his projects.

Also present at the meeting were Cyril POPOVICI (WSM-155), an Iron Guardist who was formerly a magistrate in Rumania, and Vasilie IASSIN-SKI, mentioned in paragraph 1 of the attached report. Turner met with the three merely to hear what they had to say. He was aware of previous meetings between Prince NICHOLAS and members of the Embassy, and that what SIMA had to say now was to all intents a mere rehash of NICHOLAS' line.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2002 2000

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FORM NO. 81-59  
FEB 1949

ACU

65-7-10-1  
65-7-4-42 RPP

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Subject: Rumanian Iron Guardists  
in Spain

Report No: WSM-431

Date of Information: November 1951

Place Acquired: Spain, Madrid

Date Acquired: 1 November 1951

Evaluation: B-2

Date of Report: 6 November 1951

Source: See cover sheet

1. Source, who has excellent Rumanian contacts in Spain and has been following the activities of the Rumanian Iron Guard elements now living in exile in Spain, reports that these elements can by no means be considered a unified and cohesive group. He says that although they maintained a relatively solid front vis-a-vis the other Rumanians in Spain until recently, there are now three distinct groups, all professing Iron Guard sentiments, but each the rival of the other two.
2. He claims that the first, and probably most significant, group is composed of Horia SIDA, former Iron Guard political leader who has been in Spain for the last month, Vasile TASSINSKY, Georges DIMETRESCU, and Traian POPESCU. Source describes this group as the "purists" as far as their Iron Guard point of view is concerned. It considers SIDA its leader, and feels that it has the right to exercise the leadership of all the exiled Rumanians in Spain with Iron Guard connections or leanings. The group has funds of unknown origin at its disposal, and publishes its own propaganda journal called Libertatea (sic). Source believes that evidence tending to indicate that the group has funds of considerable size is the fact that the journal in question is edited on a very luxurious scale, being printed on fine paper, etc. *Publish*
3. Associated with the group described above is another Iron Guardist named POPAN, who evidently accepts SIDA's leadership. POPAN is engaged in organizing scholarships in Spanish universities for Rumanian exiles in other parts of Europe. He himself is in Madrid. He has succeeded thus far in arranging for six scholarships, and the students have already arrived. Source says all are Iron Guardists, and claims that POPAN has eleven more students coming in the near future.
4. A second group, which source characterizes as being "somewhat independent" of the SIDA group, consists of George USCATESCU, Cyril POPOVICI, and Aurel RAUTU. This group is connected with the broadcasts to Rumania of the Spanish Radio Nacional. Its members stick closely together, and do not appear to accept without reservation the leadership of SIDA and his group.
5. The third group, which source calls "deviationists" from SIDA, is made up of Mihai Petin ENESCU and Horia STARNATU. This group publishes propaganda in the form of a magazine, also called Libertatea. It has split off completely from SIDA, but continues to call itself Iron Guard. *STARNATU*
6. Commenting on Iron Guard activities in Spain in general, source claims

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that in spite of internal dissensions, the Guardists dominate the Russian colony by weight of numbers alone. In addition, they have money to spend, and have several excellent official Spanish contacts, the most notable being the Marqués de PRAT of the Foreign Office. Source feels that they are making a definite effort to make of Spain the Iron Guard center for all of Western Europe, and that one of their fondest wishes is to interest the Americans in their plans. In this connection, he says that SINA has been hinting indirectly that he is in contact with the Americans.

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